

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 DRC-01 AID-20

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R 132003Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5629

INFO USCINCSO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, AR

SUBJ: ELECTIONS IN METAL WORKERS UNION

SUMMARY: ELECTION OF MINLABOR AND BA GOVERNOR TO IMPORTANT POSITIONS IN METAL WORKERS UNION CAUSES CONSTERNATION AMONG LABOR CIRCLES. CONCURRENT HOLDING OF IMPORTANT UNION AND GOVERNMENT POSITIONS IS SEEN AS UNDEMOCRATIC PRACTICE, AND AS EFFORT TO FURTHER CONSOLIDATE METAL WORKERS POSITION AS CENTER OF LABOR POWER. END SUMMARY.

1. METAL WORKERS (UOM) LOCAL UNION ELCTIONS HELD WEEK OF MAR 5 HAVE BEEN CAUSE OF CONCERN FOR BOTH PERONIST AND NON-PERONIST LABOR. MAJOR DISPLEASURE WAS VOICED PRIVATELY OVER MINLABOR OTERO'S ELECTION AS SUBSECGEN OF FEDERAL CAPITAL BRANCH, AND BUENOS AIRES GOVERNOR CALABRO'S ELECTION AS SEC GEN OF VICENTE LOPEZ BRANCH. TRADITIONALLY, ELECTED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAVE NOT BEEN ACTIVE CANDIDATES FOR TRADE-UNION POSITIONS, AND IN FACT TRADE-UNIONISTS ELECTED TO IMPORTANT NATIONAL GOVERNMENT POSITIONS NORMALLY RESIGN THEIR TRADE-
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UNION POSITIONS ON BEING SWORN INTO OFFICE. OTERO'S AND CALABRO'S

BREAK WITH TRADITION IS LOOKED ON AS UNFORTUNATE FOR INTERNAL UNION DEMOCRACY, AND AS FURTHER INDICATION OF METAL WORKERS EFFORTS TO CONSOLIDATE THEIR POSITION AS MOST POTENT LABOR FORCE IN COUNTRY. SOME OBSERVERS, BOTH PRIVATELY AND PUBLICLY ARE COMPLAINING THAT ARGENTINA IS BECOMING A "METALLURGICAL COUNTRY", RATHER THAN A PERONIST ONE. NATIONAL UOM SECRETARY GENERAL LORENZO MIGUEL WAS RE-ELECTED SECGEN OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL BRANCH ON AN UNOPPOSED SLATE. A LEFTIST, OPPOSITIONIST TICKET WAS NOT PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTIONS ON GROUND OF "IRREGULARITIES".

2. LORENZO MIGUEL AND THE UOM ARE THE UNQUESTIONED CENTERS OF LABOR POWER IN ARGENTINA. CURRENT RUMOURS INDICATE THAT EITHER MIGUEL OR CALABRO WILL REPLACE TEXTILE WORKERS SECGEN ROMERO AS CGT SECGEN IN JULY ELECTIONS; HOWEVER IT IS NOT CERTAIN THAT EITHER PERON OR THE MAJORITY OF THE CGT MEMBER UNIONS WOULD WISH TO SEE A FURTHER EXTENSION OF THE METAL WORKERS POWER. THEREFORE ELECTION OF A STRONG METAL WORKERS UNION MEMBER AS CGT SECGEN IS IN NO WAY CERTAIN.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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TAGS: ELAB, AR, UOM
To: STATE
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